

## **REMARKS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Claims 1-5, 11-15, 28-31, and 33-71 were previously and are currently pending and under consideration.

Claims 1-5, 11-15, 28-31, and 33-81 are rejected.

Claims 35, 38, and 39 are objected to.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 28-30, 33-46, 50-54, and 61-65 are amended herein.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

### **CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION AND ABSTRACT**

The specification has been reviewed in response to this Office Action. Changes have been made to the specification only to place it in preferred and better U.S. form for issuance and to resolve the Examiner's objections raised in the Office Action. No new matter has been added.

### **REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH**

In the Office Action, at pages 3-5, claims 40-43, 47-49, 51-54, 57-60, 62-65, and 68-71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein. The claims have been amended to correct the informalities in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and interpretations. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

### **REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH**

In the Office Action, at pages 5-7, claims 1-5, 11-15, 28-31, and 33-71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein. The claims have been amended to correct the informalities in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and

interpretations. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

## CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 19 April 2004

By: James T. Strom  
James T. Strom  
Registration No. 48,702

1201 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 434-1500

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)**  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 19, 2004  
STAAS & HALSEY  
By: James T. Strom  
Date: April 19, 2004

BEST AVAILABLE COPY